

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 IOE-00 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OMB-01

ABF-01 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8668

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG, EAGR

SUBJECT: REVISED FAO BUDGET

REF: (A) GENEVA 5165; (B) STATE 121449; (C) ROME 10507;

SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP MET JULY 2 TO CONSIDER FAO REVISED PROGRAM AND BUDGET. CO-CHAIRMAN LANDYMORE DESCRIBED GENEVA ATMOSPHERE OF ALARM OVER ALLEGED FAO ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY CONSENSUS. LANDYMORE ATTEMPTED TO SHIFT DISCUSSION TO REALITIES OF WHAT CAN GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES DO AT UPCOMING FAO COUNCIL. MOST COUNTRIES WERE STILL WITHOUT FINAL POSITIONS, BUT EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT FAO BUDGET WOULD BE APPROVED AND FOR NOW GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES SHOULD SEEK TO STRENGTHEN CRITERIA AND STRESS NEED FOR UN SYSTEM COORDINATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ROME GENEVA GROUP HELD A MEETING FRIDAY, JULY 2 TO CONSIDER FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA'S REVISED BUDGET. CO-CHAIRMAN ALEC LANDYMORE OF UNITED KINGDOM STARTED MEETING BY DESCRIBING
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ATMOSPHERE IN GENEVA AT EARLY PART OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL.

(LANDYMORE WAS UP IN GENEVA AT REQUEST OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS.) LANDMORE IN EFFECT SUPPORTED GENERAL LINE OF REFTEL A. HE SAID EVERYONE WAS TALKING CONSENSUS AND ACCUSING FAO OF ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY CONSENSUS AND IN PARTICULAR NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA WAS TO BLAME.

2. LANDYMORE SAID HE THOUGHT HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN TEMPERING THE ATTACK ON THE FAO BY FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S NEW BUDGET, WHAT IT ACTUALLY DOES, AND EXACTLY WHAT OPTIONS ARE OPEN TO THE GROUP B COUNTRIES IN THE UPCOMING FAO COUNCIL. IF APPROACHED FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S NEW TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TCP) WILL BE APPROVED BY THE FAO COUNCIL. WHAT MAY BE DONE, ACCORDING TO LANDYMORE, IS TO SHARPEN THE CRITERIA OR CONDITIONS FOR USE OF THE TCP AND THEN ATTEMPT TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN UNDP/FAO RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION. LANDYMORE MENTIONED ONE CONDITION COULD BE A PERCENTAGE LIMITATION ON THE SIZE OF THE TCP.

3. LANDYMORE NOTED THAT NORWAY HAD RAISED EFFECT OF FAO ACTION ON UN ECONOMIC REORGANIZATION EXERCISE, BUT NOBODY FELT THAT HAD GONE FAR ENOUGH TO EVALUATE.

4. LANDYMORE THEN WENT AROUND GROUP TO SEE WHAT THEIR POSITIONS WOULD BE ON FAO'S REVISED PROGRAM BUDGET. U.S. AGAIN REFERRED TO OUR POSITION EMBODIED IN REFTEL B. WE NOTED AT THAT TIME WE HAD STRESSED NEED FOR SHARP CRITERIA ON USE OF TCP. WE ALSO CONFIRMED GENEVA'S INTEREST IN THE FAO AND THE CONSENSUS AND SUPPORTED LANDYMORE'S ANALYSIS ON NEED TO APPROACH PROBLEM FROM REALITIES OF FAO COUNCIL ACTION.

5. FRG EMPHASIZED THEIR SUPPORT OF CONSENSUS. FRG EXPECTS THAT IT WILL IN GENERAL SUPPORT REVISED BUDGET, BUT WILL BE SHARPLY CRITICAL ON DETAILS. FRG ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBLE PERCENTAGE LIMITATIONS ON TCP, BUT A FINAL POSITION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN.

6. FRANCE ALSO EXPECTS TO APPROVE REVISED BUDGET, BUT IT WILL SEEK CONDITIONS SUCH AS TCP CAN ONLY BE USED FOR SHORT TERM PROJECTS, SHOULD NOT BE USED TO SUPPLY MATERIALS, NO INVESTMENTS AND A LIMIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON FUTURE INCREASES. FAO RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE CAN BE INDEPENDENT IN USE OF TCP FUNDS BUT MUST COORDINATE WITH UNDP ON UNDP FUNDS.

7. JAPAN - NAGATA READ FROM CABLED INSTRUCTIONS A LONG NEGATIVE DISCOURSE ON REVISED BUDGET. GIST OF DISCOURSE WAS THAT REVISED BUDGET WAS TOO BIG A CHANGE FROM BUDGET AUTHORIZED BY FAO CONFERENCE. USUAL CAREFUL REVIEW BY PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES WAS

DESTROYED BY NEW MAKE-UP OF THESE COMMITTEES WHICH ACTED AS
IF SERVANTS OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL RATHER THAN OF FAO COUNCIL.
NE BUDGET IS MUCH TOO VAGUE AND MANDATE TOO GENERAL. WORK
OF TCP COULD BE DONE IN EXISTING FAO. NAGATA EMPHASIZED THIS WAS
INITIAL POSITION AND THAT JAPAN WOULD BE
TALKING TO SOME GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A
COORDINATED POSITION ON WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE SITUATION.

8. OTHER COUNTRIES DID NOT HAVE POSITIONS YET, BUT CONFIRMED GENEVA
ATMOSPHERE. CANADA AND SWITZERLAND WERE ABSENT. MEETING ALSO
WELCOMED NEW DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE, G. DE BAKKER, AND EXPRESSED
FAREWELL TO NAGATA. VOLPE

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